

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 further comprising the step of rewarding physicians' efforts to reduce costs by providing a share of savings in response to utilizing said standardized procedure.
3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein said collecting step comprises determining resources used in said clinical procedure.
4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein said establishing step comprises identifying resources to be used to establish said benchmark for said clinical procedure.
5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein standardizing step comprises setting the quantity of at least one resource to be used for said clinical procedure while correlating the clinical outcome.
6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 further comprising the steps of accepting a request for said clinical procedure, and requesting resources to be utilized in said clinical procedure based upon said benchmark.
7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 further comprising the steps of accepting a request for said clinical procedure, and allocating resources to said clinical procedure based upon said benchmark.
8. (original) The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of verifying the existence of supplies in inventory.
9. (original) The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of scheduling the requisitioning of supplies based upon said benchmark.
10. (original) The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of automatically ordering supplies from vendors based upon the needs of the clinical practice based upon said benchmark.
11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 further comprising the step of compiling a report of resources utilization based upon said data.
12. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises a clinical outcomes report.

13. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises a procedure results report.

14. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises a patient profile report.

15. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises information on medication used during said clinical procedure.

16. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises information on the length of stay of patients undergoing said clinical procedures.

17. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises information on the demographics of patients undergoing said clinical procedure.

18. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein said collecting step comprises monitoring the cost of said clinical procedure to provide a benchmark.

19. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein said collecting step comprises monitoring costs of requisitioned supplies.

20-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of increasing resource utilization efficiency and identifying areas to enhance quality, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to a specific clinical procedure, wherein the collected data is electronically stored in a database;

identifying from the collected data reduction opportunities for reducing waste and costs during the specific clinical procedure;

establishing a benchmark related to the specific clinical procedure based upon the identified reduction opportunities and at least a portion of the data; and

standardizing the specific clinical procedure based upon the benchmark.

25. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of increasing resource utilization efficiency and identifying areas to enhance quality, the method comprising the steps of:

allocating a first set of a resource resource for a specific clinical procedure;

performing a conducting the specific clinical procedure during which time at least a portion of the first set of the resource is utilized;

collecting data related to the allocation of the resource and the conducted specific clinical procedure, wherein the collected data is electronically stored in a database; use of the at least a portion of the first set of the resource utilized performing the specific clinical procedure;

identifying from the stored data reduction opportunities for reducing waste and costs of the resource for the specific clinical procedure;

~~determining from at least a portion of the data reduction opportunities for the resource for the specific clinical procedure;~~

establishing a benchmark ~~related to~~ based upon the identified reduction opportunities and the utilization of the resource ~~during the specific clinical procedure~~, the benchmark correlating to an average utilization ~~a second~~ set of the resource for the specific clinical procedure; and

standardizing the specific clinical procedure based upon the benchmark; and
~~, such that in a subsequent specific clinical procedure, the second set of the resource is allocated for the subsequent specific clinical procedure.~~

providing the standardization for the specific clinical procedure prior to conducting a subsequent specific clinical procedure, such that fewer resources are allocated.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 25 further comprising the step of rewarding physicians' efforts to reduce costs by providing a share of savings in response to utilizing the standardized specific clinical procedure.

27. (new) The method of Claim 11 wherein the report comprises a report overlay presenting the established benchmark.